

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 USSS-00 SAJ-01 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /158 W
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R 011424Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3587

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: PARIS 28233

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, TOOK PLACE AT THE INITIATIVE OF SOVIETS WHO WERE RESPONDING TO JOBERT'S COMPLAINT ABOUT LACK OF ADEQUATE FRENCH-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST (REFTEL). VIMONT TOLD ME THE SATURDAY MEETING WAS UNPRODUCTIVE. NEVERTHELESS, WHEN VIMONT ASKED ABOUT SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES BEING SENT TO MIDDLE EAST, GROMYKO CHARACTERIZED THEM AS "OBSERVERS" AND INDICATED THAT GROUP WOULD NUMBER ABOUT 70 INDIVIDUALS.

2. GROMYKO-VIMONT MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, WAS UNDERTAKEN AT AMBASSADOR'S INITIATIVE. VIMONT'S PURPOSE WAS TO SMOKE OUT SOVIET VIEWS REGARDING MANNER IN WHICH SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED IN MIDDLE EAST. GROMYKO WAS NOT FORTHCOMING. VIMONT SAID THAT GROMYKO'S REMARKS
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INDICATED THAT THERE IS NO ATTENUATION OF THE SOVIET

POSITION. GROMYKO ARGUED FORCEFULLY FOR TOTAL EVACUATION OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. THE SOVIET UNION, GROMYKO ADDED, WAS OPPOSED TO REWARDING AGGRESSION IN ANY MANNER, INCLUDING MINOR BORDER RECTIFICATIONS.

3. COMMENT: GROMYKO'S INTENT AT THIS TIME IS OBVIOUSLY TO TAKE A MAXIMUM POSITION AND TO AVOID GIVING THE ARABS ANY CAUSE FOR CRITICISM. SUCH POSTURE IS, OF COURSE, CONSISTENT WITH THE SOVIET PRACTICE OF AVOIDING ANY COMMENT OR ACTION WHICH WOULD PLACE THE SOVIETS OUT IN FRONT OF THEIR ARAB CLIENTS.
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